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Department of State

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7744COPY 12 OF 15 COPIES

S E C R E T CAIRO 10266

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
NODISE.O. 12065: RDS-2 5/7/00 (ATHERTON, ALFRED L. JR.) OR-M
TAGS: PINR, EG, XG, ZP
SUBJECT: FBIS RECORDING

REF: STATE 98135

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I ASSUME THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN FBIS RECORDING UNIT AT THE ALEXANDRIA CONSULATE IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STUDY I RECOMMENDED WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON TO LOOK AT THE TOTALITY OF PROPOSED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD ENTAIL A LARGER AMERICAN PRESENCE OR PROFILE IN EGYPT. MY OWN SENSE IS THAT AN FBIS UNIT OF THE KIND DESCRIBED WOULD BE RELATIVELY INOFFENSIVE. HOWEVER, WASHINGTON IS IN THE BEST POSITION TO JUDGE WHICH PROPOSALS ARE VITAL TO U.S. INTERESTS AND WHICH ARE MARGINAL, BEARING IN MIND THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT THE POLITICAL TRAFFIC WILL BEAR.

3. I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO FBIS CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY SURVEY BY A U.S. STAFF TECHNICIAN TO DETERMINE WHETHER A RECORDING UNIT WOULD HAVE THE DESIRED RESULTS, SO LONG AS IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS WITHOUT PREJU-

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State Dept. review completed



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DICE TO THE FINAL DECISION. IF THE U.S. ULTIMATELY DECIDES TO REQUEST GOE PERMISSION FOR THIS PROJECT, THE UNIT SHOULD BE LOCATED IN PRESENTLY OWNED U.S. GOVT PROPERTY (SUCH AS THE ALEXANDRIA CONSULATE) RATHER THAN AT AN INDEPENDENT SITE.

4. I HAVE RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION ON THIS MESSAGE ONLY BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW HOW CLOSELY THIS EXERCISE IS BEING HELD IN WASHINGTON. IF DEPT WISHES TO REMOVE THE NODIS/STADIS CAPTION, I HAVE NO OBJECTION. ATHERTON

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY